Application No.: 09/890,663 Docket No.: I9770.0009/P009

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a Response to Restriction Requirement in this case. Non-elected claims have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in this and other applications. New claims 45-61 have been added without adding new matter. Claims 3-8, 18-20, 24, 30, 31 and 45-61 are now pending in this application.

Applicants submit that new claims 45-61 should be examined together with the elected claims (claims 3-8, 18-20, 24, 30 and 31) because the new claims also relate to "a playing card," which is the inventive concept of the elected claims as identified by the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement.

Examination and allowance of the pending claims is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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